

U.S. Department of Justice

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Western District of New York*

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PROJECT EXILE PRESS RELEASE

April 12, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. RICKY WALLACE

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announces that on April 9, 2004 Ricky Wallace of Rochester, New York, was found guilty of unlawfully possessing an AK-47 assault rifle after having been previously convicted of a felony, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1), and guilty of unlawfully possessing crack cocaine with the intent distribute, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a), and guilty of unlawfully possessing marijuana in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 844(a), after a jury trial before the Honorable Charles J. Siragusa, United States District Court Judge. This conviction carries a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both. His sentence may include increased penalties for possession of a firearm in connection with another felony offense.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Melanie Babb and Everardo Rodriguez stated on May 20, 2003, members of the Rochester Police Department executed a Search Warrant at 22 Morgan Street, Wallace's admitted residence. During the search in Wallace's bedroom, officers found the AK-47 assault rifle, the loaded magazine, approximately 15 bags of crack cocaine, and a quantity of marijuana, as well as unused baggies and cash.

The conviction was the culmination of a Project Exile investigation on the part of the Rochester Violent Crimes Task Force, composed of law enforcement personnel from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge Michael Lawandus, the Rochester Police Department, Special Investigation Section, under the direction of Police Chief Robert Duffy, the United States Marshal's Service under the direction of U.S. Marshal Peter A. Lawrence, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office under the direction of Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn, and the New York State Attorney General's Office under the direction of Deputy Chief Richard Soule, and with the cooperation of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, under the direction of District Attorney Michael Green.

Project Exile is a special initiative announced in the City of Rochester on September 29, 1998 to end the culture of violence in the Rochester community. Under Project Exile, cases involving illegal firearms and drugs are prosecuted in Federal Court to take advantage of the stiffer penalties under the Federal gun laws and sentencing guidelines.
